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TOP SECRET

14 March 1985

Background for Meeting with Deputy Secretary Dam

15 March 1985

The US veto of the UN Security Council resolution condemning Israeli practices in southern Lebanon further increases the likelihood of a terrorist attack by pro-Iranian Shia terrorists against US personnel and facilities in the Middle East, especially Lebanon, over the next few weeks.

Hostility toward the United States has risen dramatically as a result of the US veto. Most Muslims, moreover, blame the US, directly or indirectly, for the recent explosion in a mosque in southern Lebanon and the car bombing near radical Shia leader Fadlallah's residence in Beirut.

Private US citizens are as likely to be attacked as official US personnel. Armed attacks or kidnappings may be more likely than large-scale bombings of US facilities because of increased security measures against the latter type of attack. Nevertheless, US embassies remain prime targets, and the American embassies in Jordan, Kuwait, and Bahrain reportedly are on a target list prepared by Hizballah.

- -- A Hizballah spokesman threatened the United States in vague terms at a news conference on 13 March and more moderate Muslim leaders also criticized the US veto.
- -- The Iranian-sponsored Council of Lebanon, whose members include the Revolutionary Guard commanders in the Bekaa and Iran's Ambassador in Damascus and which tries to direct all Hizballah activities in Lebanon, discussed on 12 March 1985 an unspecified operation that will be carried out within the next few days "against the enemies of Islam."

Hizballah is trying to locate the residences of Americans still living in West Beirut in order to target them for attacks.

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		the Hizballah intellgence network has become
extremely sophisticated, and the terrorists can adapt their operations to attack targets of opportunity, even in East Beirut.		
 could be inconclus	for new ive, and	vehicle barricades have been the Shaykh Abdallah Barracks. The barricades terrorist training, but the evidence is the present configuration of the barricades has ed with any US facility.

We continue to believe that the Shia radicals are determined to target US interests to force all Americans out of Lebanon. If they are unable to attack US installations in Lebanon because of enhanced security measures, they are likely to seek US targets elsewhere in the Middle East or Europe.

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